



U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON

Finance

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY, OF IOWA - CHAIRMAN

<http://finance.senate.gov>

MEMORANDUM

TO: Reporters and Editors
RE: Bush Medicare Framework
DA: Tuesday, March 4, 2003

Sen. Chuck Grassley issued the following comment about the Medicare framework unveiled today by President Bush. Grassley is chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance.

"The White House took some steps in the right direction with the framework announced today. In the Senate, I'm doing what it takes to build consensus and put together bipartisan Medicare legislation.

"The way I see it, we need a universal drug benefit so seniors who want to stay in traditional Medicare get a prescription drug plan that's just as good as those who chose a new option. I also remain committed to creating new options that strengthen and improve Medicare benefits. And I want to secure equity in Medicare's payment system with this comprehensive bill, so rural states that practice low-cost, high-quality health care don't get short-changed.

"I'm working for committee action on Medicare by June. The legislation needs to be done this summer because after Labor Day we'll be caught up in the presidential election."